

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7437
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 1160

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF
SUBJ: BOTHA'S JUNE 6 REMARKS ON FOREIGN POLICY

REF: CAPE TOWN 1146, 1147

FOLLOWING IS THE OFFICIAL HANSARD TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER
BOTHA'S JUNE 6 REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT ON RELATIONS WITH THE US AND
AFRICA. THESE REMARKS CONCLUDED THE PARLIMENTARY DEBATE ON
FOREIGN POLICY. THE MINISTER'S JUNE 5 STATEMENT AND COMMENTS
WERE REPORTED IN REFTELS.

BEGIN QUOTE: I SHOULD NOW LIKE TO CONCLUDE WITH A THOUGH WHICH
DR. BREZENSKI ONCE EXPRESSED TO ME ON THE OCCASION WHEN I MET
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN WASHINGTON.
IN WAS IN MARCH 1977, SHORTLY BEFORE I TOOK UP THE POST IN WHICH
I NOW FIND MYSELF. IN THE COURSE OF THAT MEETINWIIH THE PRESIDENT,
AT WHICH VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE, THE SECRETARY FOR STATE,
MR. VANCE AND DR. BREZEZINSKI WERE PRESENT, I SPENT APPROXIMATELY
HALF AN HOUR EXPLAINING TO THE PRESIDENT WHAT THIS GOVERNMENT
ENVISAGES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IN AFRICA. I SPOKE FRANKLY AND
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OPENLY TO THE PRESIDENT AND DID NOT TRY TO HIDE OUR FAULTS.
I REFERRED TO CERTAIN LAWS, REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES AND TOLD
HIM THAT I REALIZED THAT HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO AGREE
WITH THEM. I INDICATED IN WHAT RESPECT I THOUGHT CHANGES
COULD BE EFFECTED ON THE ROAD THAT LIES AHEAD, BUT I ALSO TOLD
HIM VERY FRANKLY THAT THERE WAS ONE DOMINANT ISSUE
WHICH WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CHANGE, NAMELY OUR RIGHT TO

GOVERN OURSELVES AND TO PRESERVE OUR IDENTITY, NOT BECAUSE WE ARE WHITE, BUT SIMPLY BECAUSE WE ALSO HAVE OUR SET OF VALUES ACCORDING TO WHICH WE WANTED TO LIVE. I DISCUSSED THE POSITION IN AFRICA WITH THE PRESIDENT. I EMPHASIZED HOW LITTLE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS REALLY EXISTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA; I DID NOT DO THIS TO DENIGRATE AFRICA, BUT MERELY TO POINT OUT THAT THEY HAVE A DIFFERENT SYSTEM OF VALUES IN WHICH THERE WAS NO REALLY INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, NO MULTIPLICITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES OR REGULAR ELECTIONS, ETC. PRESENT. I POINTED OUT THAT FEW IF ANY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES OF THE NORMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAT WERE UPHELD IN AMERICA, EXISTED IN AFRICA. I AM NOT SAYING THAT THIS IS SO BECAUSE THEY ARE BLACK. THERE ARE WHITE GOVERNMENTS AS WELL WHICH DO NOT APPLY THE SAME DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AS AMERICA DOES.

I DO NOT WANT TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD. IT IS NOT A MATTER OF BLACK VALUES BEING INFERIOR TO THOSE OF THE WHITES. BUT IT IS A FACT THAT THEY HAVE REJECTED THE PARTICULAR SYSTEM OF VALUES OF THE USA. THEY HAVE ACCEPTED OTHER SYSTEMS IN LINE WITH THEIR NEEDS AND VALUES. I SPOKE TO THE PRESIDENT IN THIS VEIN. I TOLD HIM HOW MUCH WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IN AFRICA IF THERE WERE NO RUSSIAN OR CUBAN AGGRESSION, BUT IF INSTEAD THERE WERE PEACE IN AFRICA. I MENTIONED TO HIM HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS FOR THE MASSES OF BLACK PEOPLE IN AFRICA TO OBTAIN A BETTER PROTEIN DIET AND BETTER HEALTH AND TRAINING SERVICES.

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I MENTIONED TO HIM THAT RELATIVELY SPEAKING, COMPARED TO THE POSITION IN THE USA, ONE COULD HAVE INEXPENSIVE BOREHOLES DRILLED IN AFRICA -- ONE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE IT DONE FOR R700 OR R800 -- SO THAT THEY COULD HAVE PURE WATER AND GET RID OF DISEASES IN STERILIZED WATER. I TOLD HIM OF THE NUGUNI BULL WHICH HAD BEEN BRED IN SOUTH AFRICA, A LARGE ANIMAL OF THE SAME STRAIN AS THE AFRICAN CATTLE WHICH WOULD FOR THAT REASON BE BEST ABLE TO ADAPT TO AND TO SURVIVE IN CENTRAL AFRICAN CONDITIONS. I POINTED OUT THAT THE NEARER ONE MOVED TO THE EQUATOR, THE SMALLER THE CATTLE BECAME. I SAID ULTIMATELY THEY WERE JUST AS SMALL AS CALVES AND YET ATE THE SAME AMOUNT OF GRASS AND DRANK THE SAME AMOUNT OF WATER AS A LARGE ANIMAL. I SAID THAT WITH BULLS SUCH AS THESE, WHICH IS ONLY ONE EXAMPLE, WE SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO INCREASE THE PROTEIN DIET OF THE PEOPLE.

I TOLD HIM OF OUR KNOWLEDGE IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE. I TOLD HIM WHAT MY COLLEAGUE THE HON. THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WAS DOING IN THE VIELD OF VACCINES FOR THE COMBATING OF ANIMAL DISEASES IN AFRICA. I REFERRED TO THE SIMPLE KRAAL-DWELLER LIVING IN REMOTE AREAS IN THE BUSH, FAR REMOVED FROM THE CITY. I POINTED OUT THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HELP HIM TO

HARVEST EIGHT BAGS OF GRAIN INSTEAD OF FOUR. SUBSEQUENTLY HE COULD HARVEST SIXTEEN BAGS. WE WOULD THEN ALSO BE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT A SIMPLE BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER FOR HIM SO AS TO ENABLE HIM TO REACH A LITTLE VILLAGE OR A SHOP IN THE RAINY SEASON. AFTER THAT, WE COULD RENDER ASSISTANCE TO HIM IN THE FORM OF SOME MEANS OF CONVEYANCE AND STILL LATER PROVIDE HIM WITH A BETTER BRIDGE AND BETTER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE. IN THAT WAY, ONCE WOULD ULTIMATELY, BY DINT OF HARD WORK, CREATE A BASICALLY SOUND BASIS IN AFRICA FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 1160

E.O. 11652: N/A
WITH THE MONEY WHICH WOULD THEN BECOME AVAILABLE FROM AGRICULTURE, A DEMAND FOR MANUFACTURED GOODS WOULD BE CREATED. WHEN I HAD FINISHED SPEAKING, THERE WAS A MOMENT OF SILENCE. THEN DR. BRZEZINSKI, WHO SPOKE FIRST, SAID MORE OR LESS THE FOLLOWING--

I COULD ALMOST AGREE WITH EVERY WORD THAT YOU HAVE SAID. YOU HAVE SPOKEN PROFOUNDLY MOVING BUT I AM AFRAID YOU WOULD NOT HAVE THE TIME. THE LOCOMOTIVE OF HISTORY WOULD PROBABLY OVERRUN YOU.....

THEN HE KEPT QUIET FOR A MOMENT, AND SAID -- ... AND PROBABLY OVERRUN US AS WELL.

THERE IS NOTHING INEVITABLE ABOUT MAN-MADE PLANS, INTENTIONS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS. IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THE SUN WILL ONE DAY DIE, AND THIS EARTH AS WELL. AND ALL OF US. YES, THAT IS INEVITABLE. IT IS ALSO INEVITABLE THAT THERE WILL BE A FLOOD AFTER A SEVERE CLOUDBURST. THERE IS NOTHING INEVITABLE, HOWEVER,

ABOUT HUMAN PLANS AND HUMAN DESIGNS. THE LOCOMOTIVE OF HISTORY
IS THE LOCOMOTIVE OF HUMAN MOTIVES AND DESIRES. THE THING THAT
ENDANGERS US IS NOT THE LOCOMOTIVE OF HISTORY IN THE SENSE
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OF INEVITABILITY. IT IS THE LOCOMOTIVE OF RUSSIAN LUST FOR
POWER, THE LOCOMOTIVE OF DISTORTION, OF LIES, AGAINST THIS
COUNTRY AND OUR PEOPLE. IT IS THE LOCOMOTIVE OF NIHILISM, OF
ANARCHY. THAT IS THE LOCOMOTIVE THAT IS THREATENING THE WORLD.

HOWEVER, IF WE MAKE AN HONEST ATTEMPT HERE IN AFRICA TO FACE
UP TO THE REALITIES, OF ONE ANOTHER AND CAN SEE WHERE OUR
DANGERS AND WEAKNESSES LIE, AND CAN SEE WHERE THE GOING WILL
BE UPHILL AND TAKE A FIRM RESOLUTION TO UPLIFT THE MASSES
OF PEOPLE -- BLACK, WHITE, COLOURED AND ASIAN PEOPLE -- TO
ALLOW THEM TO LIVE BETTER AND WITH MORE SECURITY AND TO UNDERSTAND
ONE ANOTHER BETTER, IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE CAN JOIN THE LOCOMOTIVE
OF JUSTICE AND UNDERSTANDING, OF HONESTY, SINCERITY, HARD
WORK, THE INDESTRUCTABLE POWER OF FAIRTH, THEN WE WOULD POSSESS
FAR GREATER STRENGTH, GREATER INHERENT SELF-GENERATING POWER,
THAN THE LOCOMOTIVE OF RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM AND AGGRESSION.
I BELIEVE BLINDLY THAT THE WHITES, THE BLACK PEOPLE, THE COLOURED
AND THE ASIANS HAVE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER IN THIS COUNTRY
FOR SO LONG THAT THEY DO NEVERTHELESS HAVE AN INHERENT TRUST
IN ONE ANOTHER AND REALIZE THAT THEY WILL MAKE THE CORRECT
DECISIONS ON THE ROAD THAT LIES AHEAD. AND THEN THE WORDS
OF DUGMORE IN 1820 COME TO MIND: "HERE WE MUST TAKE ROOT AND
GROW OR DIE". WE MUST ALL BE ABLE TO SAY WE HAVE GROWN.

WE HAVE TAKEN ROOT, WE HAVE GROWN AND WE ARE GOING TO LIVE IN
PEACE AND ASSIST AFRICA IN INHERITING THE GREATNESS WHICH
OUGHT TO BE THE DESTINY OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CONTINENT. END
QUOTE.
EDMONDSON

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